

REMARKS

Summary of Claim Status

Claims 3, 6-8, 10-11, 13-14, and 16-19 are pending in the present application after entry of the present amendment. Applicant has cancelled Claims 1 and 4-5, thereby rendering the rejection of these claims moot. Claims 1 and 4-5 are rejected for the reasons described below. Claims 3 and 6-7 are objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if properly rewritten in independent form. Claims 18-19 are added to claim the invention in alternative language.

Claims 8, 10-11, 13-14, and 16-17 are allowed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for this acknowledgement of patentable subject matter.

Applicant requests the favorable reconsideration of the claims and withdrawal of the pending rejections and objections, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following remarks.

Rejections Under 35 USC 102

Claims 1 and 4-5 are rejected as being anticipated by Ooishi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,292,015). Claims 1 and 4-5 are cancelled. Therefore, this rejection is moot.

Objections to the Claims

Claims 3 and 6-7 are objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim, but otherwise allowable. Applicant has amended Claim 3 to include the limitations of cancelled Claim 1, and further has amended Claim 6 to include the limitations of Claims 4 and 5. Claim 7 depends from Claim 6; therefore, Claim 7 is not amended. Therefore, for at least these reasons, Claims 3 and 6-7 are believed allowable as amended.

Please note that the amendments to Claims 3 and 6-7 merely incorporate limitations previously included in parent claims. Therefore, these amendments are not narrowing and are not made for the purpose of patentability or avoiding the prior art.

New Claims

Claims 18-19 are added to claim the invention in alternative language. Because of the similarity between the new claims and the existing claims (e.g., see Claim 3), no new search should be required.

Conclusion

No new matter has been introduced by any of the above amendments. All claims should be now be in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If any action other than allowance is contemplated by the Examiner, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicant's agent, Lois D. Cartier, at 720-652-3733.

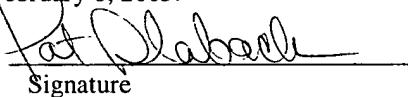
Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as **first class mail** in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 8, 2005.

Pat Slaback
Name



Signature